

From: Viraj Pradhan [<mailto:viraj.pradhan07@gmail.com>]

Sent: Sunday, March 20, 2016 12:01 AM

To: CFIRD

Subject: What to call pre-British Empire India?

Dear Sir,

Just read an interesting article in Times Of India about a debate over what does one call the Pre-British Empire India and would like to know how this is resolved .Of course,if your Board has the time and inclination to do so.

One has to ask oneself what Christopher Columbus set out to discover and what has been a continuous civilization for more than 10,000 years belonging to a varied and yet inclusive not divisive(but within a common fundamental framework) set of ideas,embracing even those others of a separate equally respected faiths but whose ancestors belonged to the same original set of ideas.All living without persecution(as alleged by some belonging to an extreme position and based on prior biased opinions- at times to divide and rule- of the outside rulers) and happily.

Many historians accompanying the rulers coming in have described the civilization as progressed,happy and tiered according to intellectual abilities and developed skills.Even the Bhagwad Gita mentions the caste system to be based upon natural dispositions/ traits and intellectual ability.It was much later that the infamous caste system developed and was exploited to divide and rule.

Poet Kalidas in his Kumarsambhav and Raghuvamsha mentions roughly the boundaries of this land.In the former he mentions Himalayas to be the Northern limit and erroneously mentions that the Himalayas reaching the Eastern and Western oceans.Here what is implied is the vastness of this landmass ,extending from ocean to ocean-breadthwise.The latter epic mentions the boundaries from today's Afghanistan to probably Indonesia.Name of the landmass is not given so the extreme positions taken ,today by the Left and the Right.The very fact that Kalidas could know the boundaries means that he could travel all the individual smaller kingdoms without the need of any visa.Obviously,he didn't need the British Indian railway.

My opinion might not count but just felt like writing since there are many in the Western world who overtly profess their love for India,Hinduism,Sanskrit but deny all these as our culture in a sweet, subtle manner with the help of their network in India.We never thought of doing the same when the Scottish referendum was held.I wonder why.

With Regards,

Dr. Viraj Pradhan